

Intimations.

GARDEN SEEDS.

SEASON 1882-3.

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AS PER LIST.

A. S. WATSON & Co.,
HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
HONGKONG. [43]

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is requested that all communications relating to Subscriptions, Advertisements, &c., be addressed to the "Manager, Hongkong Telegraph" and not to the Editor.

Letters on Editorial matters to be sent to "The Editor" and not to individual members of the staff.

Communications intended for publication must be accompanied by the name and address of the writers, not necessarily for publication; but, as evidence of good faith.

Whilst the columns of the Hongkong Telegraph will always be open for the fair discussion by correspondents of all questions affecting public interests, it must be distinctly understood that the Editor does not in any way hold himself responsible for opinions thus expressed.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Advertisers are requested to forward all notices intended for insertion in this day's issue not later than THREE O'CLOCK so as not to retard the early publication of the paper.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Arrangements have been made to publish the Hongkong Telegraph daily at 4 P.M. Subscribers in the central districts who do not receive their copies before FIVE O'CLOCK will oblige by at once communicating with the Manager.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1882.

THERE appears to exist in this Colony an extraordinary and exaggerated notion of the existence of some sort of fictitious privilege which is supposed to hedge in our public servants, and render their acts safe from criticism. It is high time this antiquated absurdity were exploded. Civil, or government servants, as they prefer to be designated, are simply servants of the public. They are paid by the public, and their obligations to their employers, and the manner in which these obligations are performed are in every sense public property. There is not the slightest occasion for being in the least mealy mouthed in criticising the performance of public functions by our own servants, so long as the criticisms are fair and impartial. This applies to all branches of the government service, from the humblest office messenger to the chiefs of departments; from the police constable to the Chief Justice himself. The public support the government; they pay for the maintenance of law and order, and they are entitled to market value for their money. They have an undoubted claim to receive from government employees of every grade, respect, courtesy, and all legitimate information on public affairs, not as a favor, but as a right.

We have been led into these general observations by an opinion which has been offered us to the effect that our criticisms of Mr. WONGHOUSSE's performances on the stage of the Police Court in the difficult rôle of judge or magistrate, which appeared in the Telegraph of the 22nd inst., were, although probably justified by facts, unjustified when applied to a government official holding such a high position as the gentleman above named. Now this opinion is what is vulgarly but expressively designated "bosh." A police magistrate is just as much within the pale of independent public criticism as the lowest servant in his court. He possesses as a magistrate no privileges of any description which exempt him from performing his duties efficiently and satisfactorily. He has no greater claims to consideration in regard to the obligations he owes to the community, and for which he is adequately remunerated, than has the employé of any private firm who does a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. It is no part of our form of government to place a premium on inefficiency in any branch of the service. It must be clearly understood that a government official, who is unfitted for whatever position he may

occupy, has no claim or privilege of any kind to be considered a permanent fixture in the public service. If a private employer discovers one of his clerks, or other employes, to be imperfectly acquainted with his duties, in his own interests he gets rid of what in a business house must be a useless incumbrance without delay. And the responsibilities of a government, which represents the interests of the public, are identically the same in regard to inefficient civil servants. These observations are of course to be understood as having a general, not a personal application. We are not hitting at any individual, but merely upholding a principle, which is neither so widely recognised nor so generally appreciated as it ought to be.

The rights of this, and every other British Colony are the rights of the community, not the personal and private interests of individuals. The humblest citizen in Hongkong, who is a subject of Great Britain, has just as good a claim to discuss everything connected with the Colony as the most influential of our leading residents. Our form of government is unfortunately of an autocratic character, which, by its constitution, cannot fail to retard progress; and it is undoubtedly a matter to be greatly deplored that so much valuable time should be wasted, and such a great deal of public money uselessly sacrificed at the shrine of red tape. As we, however, live in an age of progress, the day may not be far distant when politicians at home will be able to spare the time, and see their way to effect radical reforms in the present cumbersome and unsatisfactory system of colonial government. But we are unwittingly digressing from our original theme, and trespassing on a subject which demands a much fuller investigation than we are in a position to award to it without careful study and anxious deliberation. Our present aim is merely to remove the stupid idea which appears to prevail in some circles as to the duties of the press with regard to government servants. A newspaper which permits itself to sacrifice its independence, and to neglect the obligations it owes to its readers, and the public generally, is unworthy of the name. Our references the other day respecting Mr. WONGHOUSSE the magistrate—not Mr. WONGHOUSSE the individual—may probably have given offence, but for that we are not responsible. We considered that the magistrate had fallen in his duties—duties for which he is paid to perform efficiently—and we had no alternative but to plainly express our views on the subject. And we shall continue to do so, not only with reference to Mr. WONGHOUSSE, but to every officer of the Government who has public duties to perform, and whose performance of those duties is not satisfactory. That is our duty and our privilege, and we mean to maintain them at all cost, fairly, honestly, and independently.

We have at times heard opinions expressed that our criticisms of government affairs, although fair and reasonable enough, and justified by facts, are occasionally couched in too plain and forcible language. We call a spade by its right name, and that is considered an offence by the advocates and adherents of Hongkong pamphyism. Our mutual admiration enthusiasts have been so long accustomed to the milk and water inanities of the *Mauder* and *Fish Wrapper* that they appear quite unable to comprehend the meaning, as well as the true principles of criticism, which at the same time is fearless, independent and impartial. Hongkong governments have been exceptionally lucky in their critics. It has paid the local press to *know* and *cringe*, and make themselves door mats to our governors and administrators almost from the beginning, and the old charter is still an article of faith. Governor HENNESSY was vilely abused it is true; but then the abuse, in this instance, was inspired, and proved quite a remunerative investment. But this style of independence of the public press is happily confined to the morning and evening journals of Hongkong. Other colonial governments are treated to an amount of free criticism in language which is remarkable for its vigorous plainness, and we do not doubt that it does them good. We have before us a specimen of a criticism lately written by a leading Sydney newspaper on the government of New South Wales. As its perusal cannot fail to prove instructive to our local "buttermen" we reprint it for their especial benefit. Says our Sydney contemporary:—"How long are a set of pumpkin-headed official idiots to retard the progress of this Colony? Any one who looks at an American newspaper, even the smallest daily, sees at a glance the vast extent of its telegraphic enterprise. The day after the last opening of the Imperial Parliament the N. Y. Herald had a cable report far exceeding in length the report published the same day by the London Times—equal, in fact, to the whole of the telegraphic matter from all sources, printed

in that day's issue of the "British Thunderer." In Australia the Press has to struggle against a fish-blooded, marrow-freezing officialism. Not long ago our Postmaster-General deliberately tried to increase Press rates for telegraphy, and at the same time to diminish Press opportunities. The Victorian Government has refused to allow DAVID SYME, the enterprising proprietor of the *Age*, to erect at his own expense a telegraphic line between his office and Sydney and Adelaide; and our Government, we now hear, has declined to sanction the laying of a special wire between the Sydney *Morning Herald* and *Argus* offices—which are connected telegraphically, but not by a special line. Were an extra wire put up there would be practically no limit to its use; but at present the amount of matter sent through is necessarily restricted. The paltry narrow-mindedness of the Telegraphic Departments in this matter, forms a heavy indictment against the Government. New Zealand is half a century ahead of us telegraphically. A telephone line 100 miles long is in operation between Christchurch and Timaru. The wire cost \$1,500. Conversation is carried on with great ease, and during the grain season a great saving of time results. It is the property of a private firm (Messrs. CUNNINGHAM & Co.). The extension of the line to Oamaru is contemplated. Here, a grab-all, dog-in-the-manger Government will neither push the telegraphic and telephonic systems nor allow the public to do so. We venture to think that the Government of Hongkong would be none the worse if a great many of its crying abuses were handled in the above style. But then such a straight-from-the-shoulder system of fighting would be considered quite too utterly awful by the heaven born geniuses who are supposed to guide the fortunes of the Colony, and who are said to affect horror at the idea of their conduct being placed under the lash of criticism. However, at the risk of rubbing against old fashioned prejudices, we have no intention of limiting our contemporaries by a policy of masterly inactivity. All public grievances will find ready publicity in these columns; whether against the government or anybody else is a matter of sublime indifference, so long as we are fighting for public rights.

TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, 28th September.
AFFAIRS IN EGYPT.

Several regiments in Egypt are under orders to embark. General Wolsley considers 10,000 men sufficient to maintain order.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

LUI AHING, a member of the unemployed persuasion, for stealing clothing valued at 90 cents, was this morning sent to six weeks' hard labor by Captain Thomsett.

We received the following Manila telegram from the Harbour Master's department late last night:—"A typhoon is coming from the S.E. of Luzon. It is travelling slowly. If it is possible to ascertain its direction will notify."

We hear that Mr. Kwan Chak Lam, late assistant Usher and process server at the Police Court, has been promoted to the post of Chinese clerk and shroff at the Supreme Court. Mr. Kwan Chak Lam's emolument in his new situation is \$48 per mensem, and he is required to find security in the sum of \$5,000, and two sureties of \$2,500 each.

PRIZE "daws" appear to be looking up. The prize obtained at a London show for the prize bulldog Lord Nelson, who had won every cup for which he ever competed, was \$50,000. His aspect is described as the "most unprincipled ruffian that ever ran on four legs to help his master in the attack on a helpless traveller on a starlight night." His coat is milk-white, his eyes red and bloodshot, his chops fall down each side of his jaw, and when he raises his lips and shows his teeth, the spectators draw back in terror.

An incident which caused some considerable excitement amongst the Chinese, took place on the 27th instant. A native lady who has been married for a period of ten years without fulfilling woman's mission by adding to the population, on the above date gave birth to two sons and a daughter. Triplets are rare events amongst the Chinese, so the mother and children have become objects of interest, many sight-seers having called, and we are pleased to state, not empty handed. We are glad to say that the interesting family are doing well.

As predicted in our yesterday's issue, Doctor Brown again appeared before the "bank" this morning. The doctor was discharged yesterday after paying the fine of five dollars, and apparently got mixed up with the "fire water" without loss of time. At 7.30 p.m. Veer Singh, P.C. 564 "spotted" the irrepressible one in a wheelbarrow, in a quibsy condition. He was having a row with the licensed obstructionist over the matter of fare; and wound up by slugging the Celestial, which violent proceedings caused his arrest. Brown admitted the charge and said he had been promised a passage to Swatow to-day. Captain Thomsett took a charitable, sensible, and lenient view of the case, and discharged the medico on the condition that he left the Colony to-day.

We hear that the French steamer *Nam Vian*, Captain Garceau, which left here on Saturday last for Hoihow, lost her propeller while going up the Halphong river, about one mile from Halphong, and is at present stuck there waiting for assistance to arrive.

HO AIN, a jinnicksha coolie, charged before Captain Thomsett with stealing a box valued at \$2, said another man told him to take the box, and he did so. One month's hard labor in Haywards Hotel will reward the street obstructionist for his too ready obedience to the commands of the "other man" with whom he had no previous acquaintance.

We observed that the four ingenious gentlemen who proposed to make themselves rich by the simple process of selling comparatively worthless wine in bottles bearing the most esteemed brands and labels, have been convicted in London of conspiring to defraud, and sentenced, the leading spirit to eighteen months, and the others to nine months, with hard labour.

The beautiful spectacle now presented by the comet in the eastern sky before sunrise, should surely be tempting enough to induce even the greatest sluggard among us to take advantage of the present clear weather, and leave his bed, if only for once, to have a look at it. Situated but a few degrees south of the equator, it rises nearly in the east about an hour and a half before the sun, and remains visible for an hour or more. Five o'clock or a little earlier is a good time for seeing it. The nucleus and coma together form a bright object, about as large to the eye as Jupiter, though not so bright. The tail, which is about seven or eight degrees in length, stretches obliquely upward in the direction of Orion's Belt; it is of great symmetry, brightness and beauty, and very slightly curved, and has the dark furrow or line down the centre that is usually seen in bright comets. The comet is receding from the sun. As observed from the *Oceanic* by Captain Metcalfe, the distance of its head from Sirius was 63 deg. 21 min. on the morning of the 26th, 62 deg. 32 min. on the 27th, and 61 deg. 49 min. yesterday morning. It is probably a stranger to the solar system, and will doubtless continue for some time a fine spectacle in the early morning sky.

In answer to several inquiries as to the value of rowing, riding, walking, tricycling, boxing, cricket, etc., as healthful exercises, *Knowledge* says: "It will probably sound paradoxical, after the stress we have laid on the necessity for exercise, to say that we consider each one of these exercises, as pursued by specialists, undeniably bad for the development of a well proportioned and thoroughly healthy frame. Take, for instance, any first-class eleven at cricket; select, if you please, an eleven such as the Australian, in which all-round aptitude is a characteristic feature, and you will invariably find so large a proportion of ill-shaped men as to show that thoroughly well-built cricketers owe their goodly proportions to exercises outside cricket. Despite the running involved in the game, four cricketers out of five have badly developed chests. One would say a good bat should have good shoulders, but that batting does not tend to improve the shoulders is shown by two, at least, of the finest Australian bats. Take rowing, again. Unless a rowing man does other work especially intended to correct the defect, he has invariably poor arms above the elbow, a marked inferiority in the development of the chest as compared with the back, and he generally has round shoulders and a forward hang of the head and neck. Boxing is better, but it cannot be pursued with advantage as the chief exercise to a man or boys takes, and it is entirely unsuitable to girls and women.

It is difficult, says the *Overland Mail*, to understand the "why and wherefore" of M. de Lesseps' recent words and actions. In what way does he suppose that France can gain by incurring the animosity of England? Not that the irresponsible sayings of any private citizen, especially one so advanced in years, are likely, one would think, to lessen the existing *entente cordiale* between the two nations; but still smaller matters have before now converted two friends into bitter enemies. Does Mr. de Lesseps desire this? If not, why does he not and speak as England's enemy? As a general rule, the "irresponsible" sayings of popular leaders may be traced to the fountain heads of diplomacy. General Skobeleff's inflammatory anti-German speeches are instances in point. Then there was a clear object to gain. Russia wanted to elicit the real measure of French hatred to the Teuton, and to learn how far France could be counted upon as an ally in the attempt to crush Germany. Now the motive is utterly enveloped. Out of common prudence, it seems to us that France should stand by the English alliance; at all events, while any strands of it hold together. She has everything to gain and little to lose by a friendship with this country, though, perhaps, we should be better off by a close German alliance. By his excessive patriotism, which certainly borders on madness, if it is not so in good truth, M. de Lesseps is injuring his native country. Still, what can be expected of a politician who quite lately claimed for France the honour of having civilised Egypt? Anyway, the French Government will do well to officially repudiate his action. England has no aggressive or selfish designs in Egypt, and this fact cannot be too much enforced upon the minds of all jealous rivals; nevertheless, the nation is united in the determination to safeguard its road to India, wherein, as has been justly remarked by a great French writer, lies England's vulnerable heel. Ruling by the sword 250,000,000 half-treacherous Asiatics, the possession of the quickest road to the East is simply part and parcel of our existence. At present the Suez Canal is that shortest highway; and, by right of necessity, it belongs chiefly to ourselves. English interests are paramount, notwithstanding the Canal was the inspiration of French genius; and this supremacy was acknowledged by no one more willingly than by M. de Lesseps himself—when appealing to British capitalists for funds. *Tempora mutantur*.

An English girl, at a school examination, being asked to name the books of the Old Testament replied: "Devothshire, Exeter, Llicus, Numbers, Astronomy, Jupiter, Jumbo, Ruth."

"What would you do if you were I and I were you?" tenderly inquired a young swell of his lady friend as he escorted her home from church. "Well," said she, "I were you—I should throw away that vile cigarette, cut up my cane, and watch my watch chain underneath my coat, and stay at home at night and pray for brains."

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

SIR,—Can you, or any of your readers, be good enough to inform me, why Richard Brown, described as a doctor of medicine, was fined \$5 or 14 days' imprisonment, on the 28th September for being drunk in the Streets?

The man, according to reports in the local journals, was picked up while lying drunk in a gutter in this Colony.

He was charged on the 7th instant, but was sent to gaol, or kept from time to time, until the 28th instant when he was sentenced to pay the fine before mentioned.

A felon of the deepest dye could not have been treated with greater severity!

A man for simply being drunk is kept in gaol, and his case remanded from time to time at the whim of a magistrate; the prisoner admitting the offence, if there is one (?) and this in an English Colony. Oh, cruel justice!!!

The law (Imperial) states that a man can only be fined for drunkenness; cases, however, on appeal to the highest authorities in England have been reversed in which a man was convicted of simply being drunk in the streets—inability of taking care of one's person, however, was, I believe, brought within the meaning of "nuisance."

Now, I am not an advocate of Dr. Richard Brown's; but I am at the same time one of justice; and if in a common case in which a man is brought before the bench for an offence (drunkenness presumably being one of them) he is to be punished having no regard to statutes, and being left only at the discretion of the judge or magistrate, I think that the sooner we petition for competent judges to sit in our Police Courts and administer the law as laid down by the law books the better for innocent (of crime) men.

Yours very truly,

SINA-QUA-NON.

Hongkong, 29th September, 1882.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

MACAO, 27th Sept., 1882.

Another outrage was perpetrated a couple of days ago by the Chinese Customs cruisers, in the vicinity of the Portuguese harbour of Coloman. Yung-can is a little village within rifle shot of Coloman, and like that place, tributary to Macao. A few Portuguese were out shooting in the neighbourhood of the place, when they were fired at by the Chinese Customs' launch. It is said the shots were so well aimed that the hunters very narrowly escaped from being hunted down. On arriving at Macao they reported the affray to the proper quarters, and it is said another official despatch has been made to the Canton authorities, demanding satisfaction.

These repeated encroachments of the Chinese Customs upon Portuguese territory, and in Portuguese waters, are giving rise to very unfavourable comments. We have on the one side, the Chinese asserting what they affirm are their rights with an armed occupation of the frontier, and outraging all international laws by recklessly firing at Portuguese subjects in their own waters; and on the other, the Portuguese authority arming itself with diplomacy and trusting everything to it. The results are palpable. The policy of the Canton Customs is of the *primi occupantis* stamp, while Portugal is philosophizing over the divine origin of right and law. What prospects of commerce can this crippled colony boast of, when its port is only free by name; when its harbour is a mud-bank, and its land and sea approaches are strongly guarded by the Chinese Imperial Customs Collectors?

Mr. A. Bastos, Jr., (on the Future of Macao) maintained, in 1873 that Macao would be prosperous by the re-introduction of the Chinese Hoppo Delegation. Would that gentleman stand up to his assertion in the presence of current events? Can there be trade, when such restrictive measures are levelled at its destruction? It is said by some, that the Portuguese Government is quite right in allowing a free course to the cruisers, on the same principle that prompts the English at Gibraltar to let the Spanish Customs cruisers and guards do their duty beyond certain bounds. This is a rather far-fetched comparison. We do not hear, however, of serious complications having arisen between the Spaniards and the English on the subject of the Customs regulations of the former disturbing the trade or the peace of the inhabitants of Gibraltar. The true comparison should be drawn from a closer point—Hongkong; and it is—crushing. The Chinese Customs Stations around Hongkong are at a respectable distance, say at about five miles from the colony, while at Macao they are within one mile from the inner harbour; nay, the cruisers are generally anchored at a stone's throw from the Barra fort, and often almost alongside the Portuguese gunboat *Tamaga*. The river harbour is divided into two longitudinal sections in its course, and the Chinese cruisers are allowed to assert their rights so close to the shore that it is a shame to style this a free port.

The question then is, how is that revival of Chinese trade, so much boasted of by the Colonial Secretary in his speech on the opening of the Municipal Exhibition of produce and manufactures on the 5th February, to be reconciled with the coercive and restrictive measures imposed by the Canton authorities around Macao, and tolerated by the Portuguese to such an alarming extent? Again, how is the Government to face and settle any conflict that may arise from the close proximity of these two elements so much opposed to each other?

A conversation overheard the other day—*—* "Did Sheridan or Knowles write 'The School for Scandal'?" "He—Why, Knowles, of course. Sheridan was a general in the army; you know and never wrote anything." "Did you hear Knowles marching through Georgia?" "Yes, O. I remember now, but I always get these two men confused."

PROFESSIONAL BEAUTIES.

The "professional beauty," says *London Society*, is no new feature of the London season; and though photography has no doubt done much to give publicity to the charms of the level-headed women in the ranks of fashion, yet in the days of our great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers the reigning belles excited just as much vulgar curiosity and gossip as they do now. Take, for example, the Gunning-Maria and Elizabeth—who appeared at the Court of George II.—one at the age of 18 and the other of 19, and both without a shilling to their dowry. "They are declared," writes Walpole, "to be the handsomest women alive; they can't walk in the park or go to Vauxhall but such crowds follow them that they are generally driven away." One day they went to see Hampton Court; as they were going into the Beauty Room another party arrived; the housekeeper, in a state of great excitement, said to the newcomers, "This way, ladies, here are the famous beauties!" The Misses Cunningham thereupon flew into a passion, and asked her what she meant; they went to see the palace, and not to be shown as a sight themselves.

The younger of the two sisters became the wife of James, Duke of Hamilton. He fell in love with her at a masquerade, and a fortnight later met her at an assembly in Lord Chesterfield's gorgeous new house, in Mayfair. His Grace was so enamored of the lovely Elizabeth that he left the far-fabled, where he had, staked a thousand guineas, and "let the game slide" while he paid devoted court to his enchantress. Two nights later, at half an hour past midnight, they were married by Dr. Keith with the ring of a bed-curtain in Mayfair chapel—one of the most hasty and eccentric marriages on record. In less than three weeks Maria, Gunning followed her sister's example, and was wedded to Lord Coventry, though not with such indecent haste as in the other case.

The two beauties were even greater objects of popular curiosity after their marriages than before. When the Duchess of Hamilton was presented, the crowd at the drawing room was so great that even "noble persons" clambered upon chairs and tables to look at her; whilst mobs gathered around the doors of the two "goddesses" to see them get into their sedan-chairs; and such crowds flocked to see the Duchess when she went to her castle that 700 persons sat up all night in a Yorkshire town in order to see her start in her post-chaise the next morning!

Lady Coventry was equally run after; at Worcester a shoemaker made two guineas and a half by showing, at a penny a head, the shoe which he was making for the Countess. She had, however, little but her beauty to recommend her; it was she who made the singularly *maladroit* remark to his Majesty the one sight she longed to see was a coronation. Her husband, who was a sensible man in many respects, objected strongly to her idleness, and she used to sit at a large dinner party, suspecting that she had been "making herself up," he chased his wife round the table till he caught her, when, before all the company, he scrubbed her face with a napkin. When Lady Coventry visited Paris she expected that her beauty would meet with the applause which had followed her and her sister through England; but she was put to flight by another English lady, still more lovely in the eyes of the Parisians. A certain Mrs. Pitt took a box at the theatre opposite the Countess, and was so much handsomer than her ladyship that the *partie* cried out that this was the real English angel; whereupon Lady Coventry quitted Paris in a huff. Not long afterward she died of consumption, accelerated, it was said, by the red and white paint with which she plastered those luckless charms of hers.

WAR TELEGRAMS.

The subjoined items relating to the war in Egypt, received by the American Mail, were crowded out yesterday:—

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 25th. Nefidoff, the Russian Ambassador here, finding it impossible in the face of the decided attitude of Lord Dufferin to get the stipulations of the Military Convention between Turkey and England examined and if necessary modified by the conference, is now endeavoring to have the documents officially communicated to the conference as soon as it is signed. At the same time he wishes to extract from Great Britain a formal declaration that she will seek no exclusive advantage in Egypt and will submit the final solution of the question to the decision of Europe. Nefidoff has already obtained the support for his effort of at least one of his colleagues.

ISMAILIA, August 26th. The enemy's loss during the recent battle is estimated at 4,000. The first shell fired by the enemy passed a few feet over General Wolseley's head, and took off the leg of a horse ten yards behind him. The enemy throughout the fight declined to come to close quarters. The two gunners killed were struck by shrapnel near General Wolseley's position.

The troops behaved well. They were all day without water or food, after marching ten miles through heavy sand. The enemy's cavalry swept around the British right flank but did not come within striking distance. The Egyptian fire was too hot for the Life Guards to cross the open toward them. The British infantry passed the day lying down behind the banks and in the ditches. After the engagement General Wolseley rode to Ismailia, and returned late in the evening. Reinforcements arrived during the night, but the guns not until early next morning, having great difficulty to get through the sand. At daylight it was found, to the great disappointment of four men, that the main body of the enemy had withdrawn.

The Egyptian artillery fought well and fired much more accurately than they did at Kafr-el-Dwar. The infantry were contemptible, and the cavalry were little better; many of both those armies were observed breaking from the ranks and dispersing under our fire of shell.

All the troops except the Irish Fusiliers and three batteries of artillery have gone to the front. Two squadrons of the Indian cavalry have arrived and have also gone forward. On Thursday the British gunners were so exhausted after some hours of continuous work that they were obliged to lie down while the drivers worked the guns.

ISMAILIA, August 26th. Ramses and Birket el-Monsam were occupied by the British. The losses were small on both sides. The enemy retreated to Lake Maxima. Both men and horses are suffering much from the heat. The transport service is insufficient and the army telegraph train has not yet arrived. A few engineers are working on the Egyptian line to Port Said. The work is very heavy, there being only one line. The Life Guards captured eight prisoners, who were dressed as ordinary peasants but carried arms. Two had long Arab muzzle-loaders, and the others carried Remington rifles.

The enemy's scouts displayed great boldness. The enemy were much stronger than we expected. They had a number of cavalry and were spread out in a semi-circle. We soon perceived train after train of reinforcements arriving. Our guns commenced firing at 11 o'clock, and at first our fire was very weakly responded to, but in the afternoon the rebels threw six shots to our one. They produced, however, very little effect, as the fire of the enemy, though fairly good for amateurs, was not correct. Altogether, our men and horses stood the heat of the sun fairly well. A launch has been sent up the canal with two guns, and a siege train will probably be ready to-morrow with a 40-pounder. The Thirtieth Bengal Cavalry will land to-morrow.

PORT SAID, August 26th. In the course of a conversation to-day De Lesseps adhered to his opinion in regard to the National party in Egypt. He said he still considered Arabi Pasha a noble patriot and he felt happy to think that he (De Lesseps) had a great share in preventing France from participating in an adventure which he believed would have even more disastrous consequences than those of the French expedition to Mexico. He said he believed the campaign will be long and the English would encounter determined resistance.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 27th. Mukhtar and Servey Pashas are preparing to proceed to Alexandria at once. During the last three days fifty persons have been arrested while engaged in enlisting men on behalf of the Khedive. Osman Pasha, ex-Minister of War, it is stated, has been the intermediary employer. The investigation will proceed, but with the utmost secrecy. Report continues to attribute to Nefidoff, the Russian Ambassador, an anti-English policy. It is stated that he has repeatedly urged upon his colleagues that England must submit to a Conference the results of the Egyptian campaign.

The British Embassy lately received advice from Envermeh that the Russian authorities are making large purchases of wheat to be stored at Kars.

ISMAILIA, August 27th. An engine and nine trucks arrived to-day from Suez, and the line is in fair working order. The rebel position at Tel-el-Kebir is a very strong entrenchment right across and on both sides of the railway. The position is flanked on each side by water.

Our loss on Friday was about fifty killed and wounded, of which the cavalry lost twenty or thirty from the enemy's shell fire and from charging a square of infantry.

Our total force in Ismailia, directly under General Wolseley, number about 11,000 men, 2500 horses and 27 guns.

PORT SAID, August 27th. The steamer *Calypso* arrived on Saturday with 150 Turkish troops and moored inside of the inner harbor, when the *Monarch* at once sent two armed boats with Gatling guns from the *Monarch* to learn their errand. The Turks stated that they were the annual relief for the Turkish garrison in some port in the Red Sea. During the night armed boats from the British fleet cruised around the harbor, but the canal was not landed. The *Calypso* entered the canal on Sunday morning, a steam plannet from the *Hedra* accompanying her with orders to prevent the disembarkation of the troops.

GENERAL WOLSELEY telegraphed from Ismailia on Sunday: "Just returned from the outposts and saw that our action on Thursday and Friday had far more important results than I was aware of yesterday. The enemy was completely routed and fled toward Zagazig, throwing away their arms and accoutrements. A large amount of camp equipment and munitions were captured. Mahmoud Fehmy, Arabi Pasha's Chief Engineer and military adviser, is now a prisoner in my camp."

ISMAILIA, August 28th. The troops are continually advancing and it will not be long before Tel-el-Kebir is attacked. Between Ramleh and Mayum the ground is good for marching, but the canal is full of dead horses and the dead bodies of Arabs. Some of the latter were thrown there by their comrades, while others were the corpses of men shot while attempting to escape. Judging from the quantity of clothing, etc., found in the abandoned camps, the rebels must have been in great force, but most of them appear to have been merely peasantry, armed with old muzzle-loading muskets. Almost all of the prisoners are peasants, and all the dead are also peasants.

The doctors have prohibited the use of the water in Lake Maxium for drinking. An artillery General has been captured, who speaks English fluently. He has furnished valuable information. We now have two infantry regiments, with cavalry and artillery at Kassassin. Mahmoud Fehmy's son has also been captured by the British.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 28th. Austria supports Nefidoff, the Russian Ambassador, in his effort to have the Military Convention, when signed officially, communicated to the Conference and to obtain from Great Britain a declaration that she would seek no exclusive advantage in Egypt, and will submit the final solution of the question to the decision of Europe.

ALEXANDRIA, August 28th. A Ministry has been formed with Cherif Pasha as President of the Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Riaz Pasha Minister of Finance, and Omar Lutfi Pasha Minister of War.

CALCUTTA, August 28th. A further reserve has formed for immediate service in Egypt and will be despatched on receipt of orders to that effect from Gen. Wolseley. The whole control of the Indian Division has been made over to Gen. Wolseley.

CALCUTTA, August 28th. Fearful rioting between Hindoos and Mohammedans has occurred in the Salem District. Three Mohammedans have been arrested. An eye witness to the disorders says that he saw the disemboweling of a Mohammedan infant lying on the ground and its arms torn off. The headless corpses of Mohammedan men and women were lying on every side. The houses of the Mohammedans have been burned, and the principal mosque almost razed to the ground. The heads of pigs have been thrown into wells with corpses of Mohammedan children. The Mohammedans are still patrolling the streets. The Mohammedans are but a small minority of the population.

ISMAILIA, August 28th. Mahmoud Fehmy was examined at headquarters. He reports that much suffering and insubordination prevails in the Egyptian army. The difficulty of dragging supplies over the deep sand is very great. But a few miles can be made in a day, as the weather is somewhat cooler and the health of the troops excellent. The heat on the sands at noon is terrible.

ALEXANDRIA, August 29th. The enemy is still strengthening their left. They sent out an armored train again last evening. The man-of-war *Minotaur* has shifted her position to about 1000 yards nearer Aboukir. General Wood has gone to reconnoitre Mekes.

LONDON, August 29th. A despatch from Ismailia states that firing began on Monday evening between the advanced posts of the enemy and those of the British.

PORT SAID, August 29th. Last evening the Arabs attacked the British position at Kassassin and were repulsed with heavy loss. The British lost 120 men. Eleven of the enemy's guns were captured.

LONDON, August 29th.

Other advices received in London confirm the reports of a battle with and repulse of the enemy at Kassassin. The fighting took place by moonlight. The British loss was from 120 to 150 men.

General Wolseley telegraphs from Ismailia at 1:40 this morning as follows: "I have just received news from the front that General Graham was heavily attacked last evening by a large force of the Egyptians. The British cavalry from Mahsumah went to his assistance, and he has had a brilliant success, taking eleven guns. Only a few of the British were killed, but over 100 were wounded. I am just about to proceed to the front."

LONDON, August 29th. General Wolseley telegraphs from Kassassin, looking that Major-General Graham, commanding this post, was attacked yesterday evening by about twelve guns and eight battalions. Our men behaved extremely well and inflicted severe loss upon the enemy. At first General Graham had but five guns, two and a half battalions, and a small detachment of cavalry and mounted infantry. On being reinforced by another battalion he attached the enemy in front, while the First Cavalry Brigade, under Colonel Sir Baker Russell, charged them in the flank, sabring a considerable number. The cavalry were well handled by Major-General Drury Lowe. General Graham's disposition was excellent. His operations were carried out with the coolness for which he has always been well known. Arabi Pasha was on the field during the action. The cavalry charged by moonlight, but were unable to secure the rebel guns, which the enemy withdrew during the night. They left, however, all their ammunition. Our killed were, Surgeon Major Shaw, six marines of artillery and infantry Lieutenant; wounded—One Major, two Captains, two Lieutenants and 56 men.

PORT SAID, August 29th. Yusuf Bey, who recently escaped from Cairo, asserts that the Turkish and Circassian residents of Cairo are being arrested daily, and are never heard of again. The Turkish and Circassian Pashas, with the few Europeans remaining in Cairo, are guarding the citadel. They seem to be well prepared to hold their own until the British arrive. He also asserts that if the British succeed in capturing the majority of Arabi's troops would desert. A large force of the Bedouins of Kafr-el-Dwar, belonging to the tribes of Oulada and Al Salchek, and 15,000 belonging of the tribe of Taboran, remain faithful to Arabi Pasha through fear. All are prepared to lay down their arms when the British advance.

CONSTANTINOPLE, August 29th. A German officer in the Turkish service was present at a meeting of the Council when the signature of the military convention was finally discussed and advised the acceptance of the English proposals.

ISMAILIA, August 29th. A dragon signalling on the banks of the canal near Magoula was shot dead by Arabs. This shows the hostility of the people around here. Among the things captured on Friday was a tent, said to be that of Arabi Pasha, and two standards. During the fighting the Bedouins occasionally showed much courage. Several hand-to-hand encounters occurred. One man stood his ground alone, wounded a trooper, seized his sword and made two thrusts at an English officer before he was cut down.

A boat supplying the posts on the canal with provisions was fired on by the Bedouins near here to-day, and four of her Maltese crew were wounded and the boat plundered.

Gen. Wilkinson of the Indian Division arrived yesterday to confer with Gen. Wolseley, escorted by the Bengal Lancers, who rode from Suez in two days—a feat which speaks volumes for the condition of their horses.

Mahmoud Fehmy asserts that the troops cannot come from Kafr-el-Dwar to Tel-el-Kebir, as Arabi Pasha holds several of the leading Bedouin chiefs as hostages for the good behavior of their tribes.

The Duke of Connaught's brigade remains at Mahmoud for the present.

ALEXANDRIA, August 29th. The report of the death of Soula Pasha is confirmed.

ALEXANDRIA, August 29th. Soula Pasha was poisoned.

ALEXANDRIA, August 29th. The new Ministry can only be a stop-gap, and it is to be regretted that Cherif Pasha should associate his name with it.

The influx of immigrants is causing the question of the water supply to be seriously discussed.

It is reported that an officer of the guard who participated in the fight at Kassassin is missing.

LONDON, August 29th. The *Times* says: "We may soon hear that Major-General Sir Edward Hamley has been ordered to remove from Alexandria and that he is to be replaced by General Hamlyn, lately Assistant Adjutant-General of Ireland."

"THAMES-STREET INDUSTRIES" by Percy Russell. This illustrated Pamphlet on Perfumery, &c., published at 6d., may be had gratis from any Chemist or dealer in perfumery in the World, or JOHN GOSNELL & Co., London.—[ADVT.]

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

THIS DAY'S TELEGRAMS.

	HONGKONG.	AMOI.	SHANGHAI.	MANILA.
Barometer, day at 8 a.m.	30.01	30.07	30.73	30.87
do. at 4 p.m.	30.01	30.07	30.73	30.87
Thermometer, day at 8 a.m.	84.0	84.0	84.0	84.0
do. at 4 p.m.	84.0	84.0	84.0	84.0
Direction of Wind.	N. by E.	N. by E.	N. by E.	N. by E.
Force.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Dry Thermometer.	81.0	81.0	81.0	81.0
Wet Thermometer.	78.0	78.0	78.0	78.0
Weather.	b. c.	b. c.	b. c.	b. c.
Hourly Rain.	—	—	—	—
Quantity fallen.	—	—	—	—

Barometer, level of the sea in inches, tens and hundredths. Thermometer, in Fahrenheit degrees and tenths kept in the open air in a shaded situation.—Direction of Wind, is registered every two points, N., N.E., E., S.E., S., S.W., W., W.N.W., and N.W. Force of Wind, a gale, is 10 to 12 light breeze, 13 to 16 moderate, 17 to 19 strong, 20 to 24 heavy, 25 to 29 violent, 30 or more, 4 or less, 5 or more, 6 or more, 7 or more, 8 or more, 9 or more, 10 or more, 11 or more, 12 or more, 13 or more, 14 or more, 15 or more, 16 or more, 17 or more, 18 or more, 19 or more, 20 or more, 21 or more, 22 or more, 23 or more, 24 or more, 25 or more, 26 or more, 27 or more, 28 or more, 29 or more, 30 or more, 31 or more, 32 or more, 33 or more, 34 or more, 35 or more, 36 or more, 37 or more, 38 or more, 39 or more, 40 or more, 41 or more, 42 or more, 43 or more, 44 or more, 45 or more, 46 or more, 47 or more, 48 or more, 49 or more, 50 or more, 51 or more, 52 or more, 53 or more, 54 or more, 55 or more, 56 or more, 57 or more, 58 or more, 59 or more, 60 or more, 61 or more, 62 or more, 63 or more, 64 or more, 65 or more, 66 or more, 67 or more, 68 or more, 69 or more, 70 or more, 71 or more, 72 or more, 73 or more, 74 or more, 75 or more, 76 or more, 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